(e) the action taken by the Government against those hospitals which have not followed the directives of Supreme Court?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) to (e) The Supreme Court in its judgement delivered on 1.3.1996 had given directions to the concerned authorities in Delhi to install incinerators or to adopt other alternatives for the safe disposal of hospital waste in all Nursing homes/hospital having 50 or more beds. The Ministry of Environment and Forests had before the Supreme Court order, notified draft Bio-medical Waste (Management & Handling) Rules, 1995 on 4.4.1995 for eliciting opinion/objections of the public concerned agencies likely to be affected. The Ministry of Environment and Forests have notified the draft Rules again on 16.10.1997. In order to implement the directives of the Supreme Court, orders for installation of an incinerator for Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital have been issued. Action has also been initiated to provide additional incinerator for Safdarjung Hospital, Lady Hardinge Medical College & Associated Hospitals and All India Instituted of Medical Sciences, New Delhi to supplement the incinerators already installed. Government of NCT of Delhi, Municipal Corporation of Delhi and New Delhi Municipal Council are also taking action to implement the directives of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

[Translation]

Transmission and Distribution of Power

59. SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government for handing over the work of transmission and distribution of power to private sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some foreign consultants have made this suggestion; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith justification thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI YOGINDER K. AGLAGH) : (a) and (b) The provisions of Electricity Supply Act, 1948 and Indian Electricity Act, 1910 allow private participation in distribution. The Common Minimum National Action Plan for Power (CMNPP) adopted in the Chief Ministers' conferences held in October and December, 1996 also inter-alia suggests privatisation of distribution. However, it is for the State Governments to take a decision in this direction. The CMNPP also provides for necessary amendments in the relevant Acts/Rules to allow private participation in transmission. An amendment to the Electricity Supply Act, 1948 to enable private participation in transmission has been introduced in Parliament and is being considered by the Standing Committee.

(c) and (d) No foreign consultant has been appointed to give advice in this regard. The Government of India have appointed a single Member Committee under Dr. S.J. Coelho, Ex-Chairman, Gujarat Electricity Board to examine the feasibility of privatisation of distribution and to suggest guidelines/legal framework for making distribution of electricity financially viable and attractive.

Selling of Syringes

60. SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news-item captioned "MNCs Selling Syringes flauting labelling laws" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated September 5, 1997;

(b) if so, the details of the matter reported therein;

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto;

(d) whether any action has been taken against any multi-national company in this regard;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f) The report, inter alia, alleges that misbranded mislabelled sterile single use syringes and needles are being imported into the Country in contravention of various laws including the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940. On examination of the matter by the Drugs Controller General (India) it has been found that while each of strip pack of the needles and syringes does give Batch No., Date of expiry, Name and Address of the manufacturer, the M.R.P. and import licence No. are not given on each strip but given on the outer carton box which generally contains cutiple packs. As a result, all the Port Officers have been alerted to examine the imported consignment with greater vigil so as to ensure that the necessary labelling requirements are printed or affixed on each strip before clearing the consignment.